

CBRC 05.21.2020

21 May 2020 / 6:00 PM / ROOM: Virtual Hangout (Meets)

CBRC MEMBERS PRESENT

Thomas Lannom (Vice-Chair), Sara Kerr (Vice -Chair), Roger Kirchner, Jeff Lewis, Krystine McCants, Brad Nelson, Irina Phillips, Christine Pitts, Leesha Posey, Betsy Salter, Jennifer Samuels, Judith Solomon (Student Representative), Parker Myrus (Student Representative).

CBRC MEMBERS ABSENT

Judah McAuley, Tastonga Davis.

PPS STAFF PRESENT

Eilidh Lowery (Board Director - Liaison), Claire Hertz (Deputy Superintendent), Cynthia Le (Chief Financial Officer), Nicole Bassen (Budget Manager), Shanice Clark (Community Engagement Director), Yasury Valdez (Confidential Executive Assistant), Stacey Hoang (Senior Budget Analyst).

OTHERS PRESENT

Terry Proctor, Janise Hansen, Portland Teachers, Ms. Hanes, Mary Watkins.

AGENDA

1. Welcome: 6:00 p.m. - Sara Kerr & Thomas Lannom
2. Approval of the minutes from April 30, 2020 meeting: 6:02 p.m. - Sara Kerr & Thomas Lannom
3. Acknowledge the limitations of videoconferencing and electronic communication: 6:05 p.m. - Sara Kerr
4. Communications regarding staff furloughs: 6:10 p.m. - Jeff Lewis
5. Update on the latest *Revenue Forecast* from the State of Oregon and its impact: 6:15 p.m. - Cynthia Le & Claire Hertz
6. Discussion of District's four goals and outline of the CBRC Report to the Board: 6:30 p.m. - Thomas Lannom
7. Closing and next steps: 7:50 p.m. - Thomas Lannom

1. Welcome

Thomas and Sara welcomed everyone and stated that the agenda was updated to reflect current challenges. They appreciate everyone's flexibility and patience.

2. Approval of the minutes from April 30, 2020 meeting

Some members indicated they cannot open the links via Google Docs and have requested that future documents also be attached. This agenda item was revisited at 6:51 p.m. There were no objections to the minutes and was thereby approved.

3. Acknowledge the limitations of videoconferencing and electronic communication

Sara addressed this agenda item during agenda item #1 in acknowledging everyone's flexibility and patience as this temporary new form of meeting poses various challenges.

4. Communications regarding staff furloughs

Jeff forwarded a news article regarding district furloughs and wanted to discuss it. He expressed that the biggest frustration during the April 30, 2020 CBRC meeting was that the issue of furlough was asked, but not addressed. Instead, an article appeared the next day announcing the district's plan for furloughs. Members indicated that it would have been helpful if this was shared or at the minimum addressed in a vague manner. Members felt blindsided and believed that the district could have been more forthcoming. CBRC members would be willing to sign confidentiality agreements that would afford some privacy in such matters possibly during an Executive Session. Board Liaison Eilidh indicated that counsel was consulted about Executive Sessions and that Executive Sessions were not allowed for personnel issues, but rather only statutory regulation related topics were permissible.

5. Update on the latest *Revenue Forecast from the State of Oregon and its impact*

District personnel Cynthia Le and Claire Hertz shared a PowerPoint presentation titled [Budget Update - State Revenue Forecast and Impacts to PPS](#). Since some members dialed in via phone, a request was made to send the presentation out via email so they can follow along. The presentation provided an update on the recently released revenue projections from the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.

Presentation Summary:

- State revenue forecast is \$2.7 billion lower than pre-COVID.
- Economic downturn of an estimated 20% for the 1st year and gradual uptick in the next four years. Revenues are estimated to be "back-to-normal" in 5 years.
- Every \$1 billion decrease in state revenues translates to about \$30 million in reduction in State School Fund for PPS.
- Total estimated loss of revenue to PPS is about \$55.5 million for FY2020-21.
- Since the onset of COVID-19, PPS took immediate action to preserve staffing and programming by implementing purchasing restrictions, reducing contracts, imposing hiring freezes, and implementing a Work Share Program to save the district about \$19 million.
- PPS's commitments remain the same, and will continue to use its 5 System Shifts to frame what programs will be increased, maintained, or cut. Currently, staff are assessing the 3 different types of opening models for the Fall - blended learning, in person learning, or online learning. CDC and other district jurisdictions are being referred to for guidance.

- Next Steps: Superintendent to present proposed budget to BOE on May 26, 2020; impacted staff will be communicated to by their supervisors; Virtual town hall meeting will be held; BOE to approve budget on June 11th and adopt the budget on June 23rd; PPS will continue to work with various groups, including CBRC to request additional support from the state.

Questions & Answers:

Q1 - For staff positions that will be affected by budget cuts, a virtual town hall platform is a little concerning.

A1 - Affected staff will have been informed by their supervisor prior to the town hall meeting.

Q2 - Can you talk about the different ways that the state can maintain the SSF so that the projected losses in funds to the district are not as severe?

A2 - The State government can help offset some of the losses to SSF by using savings, but unsure how much of it will be used.

Q3 - Can the SSA funds, in whole or in part, be directed to the SSF if the legislator votes to do so?

A3 - Yes. A redirection of funds will require state legislative approval.

Q4 - What state reserve funds can be used to stabilize the \$9 billion budgeted for SSF? Why talk about deep classroom cuts for next year and not discuss the possible scenarios to maintain or mitigate funding losses?

A4 - The district is using other funding such as the funds from the CARES Act to mitigate cuts to its program and staffing.

Q5 - Will PPS be afforded any of the CARES Act funds that are afforded to states and governors?

A5 - Yes. The district appreciates CBRC's support and will need assistance in helping advocate for additional funding from the state.

Q6 - Is the \$8.7 million reduction statewide or is it PP's share of the reduction?

A6 - The \$8.7 million is PP's share of the reduction.

Q7 - What are some new costs associated with the new model of education?

A7 - All costs are unknown at this point as there are too many variables to consider. For example, classrooms cannot accommodate the same number of students with social distancing requirements; some parents may not want to send their kids to a physical classroom due to their families' safety concerns - so how will the district support this group of distance learners?; if there are no kids in a physical classroom, what are some things that can be cut for a virtual classroom setting?; a bond is expected to go forward to purchase new technology and curriculum - additional training and staff development will be required.

These and many more things are currently being considered by the district before a new model of instruction can be budgeted and implemented.

Q8 - Can you please follow up with me (Parker Myrus) later about the multiple plans to re-open?

A8 - Yes, please send Claire an email to request the plans.

6. Discussion of District's four goals and outline of the CBRC Report to the Board

CBRC members were asked to refer to the [board goals](#) for this agenda item.

Q9 - What resources are being allocated or what measures are being considered to meet the board goals?

A9 - The district is using its 5 System Shifts to prioritize plans, and those same 5 System Shifts is how the district is responding to CBRC's goals. For example, one of the 5 System Shifts - Transformative Curriculum and Pedagogy - is being used to develop a district-wide curriculum adoption for reading, writing and math.

Q10 - Is there a specific page in the budget book that provides details about the district's priorities?

A10 - Yes. Page 14 and 15 of the FY2020-21 Proposed Budget book provides the district's 5 System Shifts.

Q11 - How are the proposed cuts going to impact the Board Goals, particularly goal #1 to address Third Grade Reading?

A11 - The district is providing additional resources in some areas to address literacy. A revenue shortfall will not necessarily stop the district from pursuing its or the board's goals. Instead, a 3-year system plan may have to shift to a 5-year plan.

Q12 - Where in the budget book can we find the actual number where we can see an increase in funds to achieve the board goals or the district's 5 System Shifts priorities?

A12 - State budget law and requirements do not afford the district the opportunity to highlight those specific goals. The standard required formatting of budget books is to allow the state to compare school budgets across the board. Details of the district's funding goals will be provided in the form of charts and narrative during next Tuesday's board meeting.

Q13 - It is hard to see if board goals are being achieved without information in the budget book that supports it.

A13 - Usually, the budget message at the beginning of the budget book informs the reader what goals the district is trying to achieve in its proposed budget. Due to the unusual circumstances around the pandemic, the budget message has not been finalized because of the numerous unknowns when the proposed book was being finalized. The budget message and the strategic action plans will be shared during next Tuesday's board meeting.

Q14 - When will we be able to review the budget message?

A14 - Tuesday's board meeting documents have not been posted due to the short timeframe between when the state revenue projections were released and the board meeting. In addition, PPS's furloughed Fridays and a Monday holiday imposes additional constraints on when the documents will be finalized and posted. Due to these multiple complications, board documents will be released at least 24 hours before the Tuesday board meeting.

Q15 - Is it possible to see a funding matrix with the 5 System Shifts on one dimension and the Board goals on another dimension?

A15 - A matrix in that format is not available, but a chart will be provided with this information.

Q16 - How can CBRC assess PPS's response to inequity related to COVID-19? What can CBRC review to see if those inequities are being addressed?

A16 - The district is prioritizing social emotional learning support and MTSS wraparound services. Both of these will allow intervention and support various types of learners. In addition, there will be no reductions to CSI schools.

Q17 - How can CBRC know what groups are being supported?

A17 - The [School Reports](#) can provide some answers to what students are being supported and at what funding level. There is also a school staffing section in the budget book (page 201) that can help address how additional funding is provided to certain demographic groups.

Q18 - If the online model is implemented in the fall, what will happen to cafeteria workers? How do we provide services to kids who rely on school meals?

A18 - Nutrition Services is needed now more than ever due to school closures. At this point, nothing is known, but children's need will be a priority that the district will aim to meet.

Q19 - Regarding equity allocation funding, the budget book indicates that 8% is allocated based on socio-economic status and historical under-supported populations. What was allocated last year? Do we have metrics that compare what other districts are allocating? Without knowing what other districts are doing, it's hard to assess whether an 8% allocation is good.

A19 - The district's equity funding for last year was also 8%. Equity funding is compared to other nearby school districts. Unfortunately, unlike ESL, SPED, etc., equity crosses many different programs and is not coded as a standalone dollar amount.

Q20 - What is the investment commitment for equity allocation? The district might consider including a narrative background on what is allocated to know what the trends are like.

A20 - We will take this as a data request and provide a total and percentage equity allocation amount for the period from FY2015-16 to FY2019-20.

Q21 - Will another budget be provided on Tuesday?

A21 - No. We are not able to produce a new document within such a short timeframe. Due to the short budgeting period, we may have to adopt the budget without the reductions as the legislative session will not be ready before we have to submit an adopted budget. We need to prepare many things before then, including staffing determinations. All of this requires us to essentially pick a number now and amend it later. It is expected that a new budget with the reductions will not be presented to CBRC until August or September.

Q22 - Regarding district goals to accelerate CBRC board goals, how does a classroom equity look like?

A22 - We are still refining the SIA funding and should know by June 11th what that may look like. We recently learned how much the reduction will be, so we have to look at the entire [SIA application](#) to determine what will be reduced by June 11th, but further modifications may still be necessary until September.

Q23 - How is the district supporting emotional learning? Are we bringing in school psychologists or are we soliciting partnerships?

A23 - The SIA application that was submitted to the state includes these aspects. From this list, we will need to prioritize social emotional learning, RESJ, etc.

Closing thoughts/suggestions:

- Normal budget cycles do not require CBRC staff to work during the summer. But due to unusual circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and budgeting unknowns, summer work may be required of CBRC members for this budget cycle. Terms for some CBRC members are expiring in June 2020 so reappointment or onboarding of new board members need to be addressed.
- CBRC is requesting a narrative summary of how other nearby districts are handling the reductions and classroom changes, including what new budgets are being added due to COVID-19 (i.e., technology, etc.).
- CBRC members' role is to comment on the district budget from proposed to adopted, with the explicit knowledge that this year's budget is going to change.
- CBRC members were asked to comment on the framework from which members will use to review the budget. No comments were made and affirmations were granted to utilize the framework for budget review.
- CBRC encouraged the district to become engaged with the county regarding potential opportunities for resources from the recently passed Homeless Tax. Efforts of this endeavor should be added to the report.

7. Closing and next steps

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2020. The primary agenda for this session is to do a deep dive on the information provided from Tuesday, May 26th's board meeting. All CBRC members

who can are encouraged to listen in on Tuesday's meeting. CBRC's report to the board will be presented on June 11, 2020, but the report must be provided prior to the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.